

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KINSHSA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 4442

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, CG, SG
SUBJECT: AFRICAN AIRLIFT - COORDINATION WITH FRENCH

REF: (A) STATE 146508, (B) DAKAR 4381, (C) STATE 143838

1. DATT AND I HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT AT VARIOUS TIMES TODAY
WITH FRENCH CHARGE AND MIL ATTACHE IN ORDER TO TRY TO FIGURE
OUT WHERE FRENCH AND U.S. SIDES STAND CONCERNING TRANSPORT
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OF SENEGALESE CONTINGENT TO ZAIRE. FOLLOWING ELEMENTS EMERGE.

2. FRENCH CHARGE MORIZOT ASKED PARIS BY TELEPHONE TODAY
ABOUT FRENCH HAVING OVERALL COORDINATING RESPONSIBILITY FOR
AFRICAN STATES SUPPLYING FORCES. PARIS WAS APPARENTLY
UNAWARE OF THIS RESPONSIBILITY. MORIZOT SAID FRENCH
OFFICIALS IN PARIS DID INDICATE FRENCH ROLE IN LIFT OF

AFRICAN PERSONNEL, BUT WHEN THEY WERE INFORMED OF USG AUTHORIZATION FOR 25 ADDITIONAL SORTIES OVER ORIGINAL 30, FRENCH AUTOMATICALLY ASSUMED THIS MEANT WAY NOW CLEAR FOR USG TO PERFORM ENTIRE AIRLIFT.

3. FRENCH CHARGE SAW SENEGALESE PRIME MINISTER ABDOU DIOUF AT 1600 TODAY MAINLY TO TALK ABOUT EQUIPMENT. PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY SAID ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSPORT OF SENEGALESE CONTINGENT WERE GOING SMOOTHLY, AND THAT AMERICANS WOULD TRANSPORT ALL MEN AND EQUIPMENT. MORIZOT SAID NOTHING TO PRIME MINISTER ABOUT ALLEGED CENTRAL COORDINATING ROLE OF FRENCH. ACCORDINGLY GOS IS OPERATING ON ASSUMPTION THAT SINCE BOTH FRANCE AND USG HAD ASKED GOS TO SUBMIT OFFICIAL REQUEST IN WRITING TO USG FOR AIRLIFT ASSISTANCE, IMPLICIT MESSAGE TO SENEGALESE IS THAT U.S. STANDS READY TO MEET AIRLIFT REQUIREMENTS AND THAT THEY SHOULD DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE AMERICANS ON ALL TRANSPORT QUESTIONS. (SENEGALESE MILITARY HAVE BEEN INFORMING DATT DIRECTLY. HE IN TURN HAS KEPT FRENCH MIL ATTACHE INFORMED.)

4. ANOTHER ELEMENT IS THAT FRENCH AND SENEGALESE ARE NOT YET ON SAME WAVELENGTH RE SIZE OF SENEGALESE TROOP CONTINGENT. SENEGALESE HAVE APPARENTLY REQUESTED SIZABLE (BY FRENCH STANDARDS) AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT TO FILL OUT MATERIAL NEEDS FOR FULL BATTALION. FRENCH HAVE NOT

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YET MADE ANY COMMITMENTS TO SUPPLY THIS EQUIPMENT. AS A RESULT, SENEGALESE PLANNING FOR TRANSPORT TO ZAIRE IS FOR ONE BATTALION, WHILE FRENCH ARE APPARENTLY UNWILLING TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING MORE THAN A REINFORCED COMPANY BECAUSE OF THE UNRESOLVED EQUIPMENT REQUEST.

5. SENEGALESE MILITARY HAVE INFORMED DATT THAT THEY WILL BEGIN TO MOVE THEIR EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES TO DAKAR-YOFF FOR PALLETIZING TOMORROW, SATURDAY, JUNE 10, AND THAT THEY EXPECT US AIRLIFT OF 150-250 TROOPS PLUS ALL EQUIPMENT FOR BATTALION TO COMMENCE ON MONDAY, JUNE 12.

6. FOR WHATEVER REASONS, AND WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND THESE REASONS FROM HERE, THE SUPPOSED FRENCH ROLE AS THE CENTRAL COORDINATOR IN THE MOVEMENT OF AFRICAN TROOPS TO ZAIRE IS JUST NOT WORKING AS FAR AS SENEGAL GOES. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES I RECOMMEND THAT USG RETURN TO ORIGINAL CONCEPT AS PRESENTED TO SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT, THAT IF WE RECEIVED A WRITTEN REQUEST FROM GOS TO TRANSPORT MEN AND EQUIPMENT TO ZAIRE, USG WOULD HONOR THIS REQUEST. OUR HONOR AND SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE ARE AT STAKE AND

I HOPE WE WILL ACT ACCORDINGLY.

7. ONE FINAL THOUGHT IS THAT THE SENEGALESE, IN PROVIDING THE U.S. WITH FACILITIES FOR USE OF DAKAR-YOFF AS MAIN FOCAL POINT FOR BOTH SHABA II AIRLIFTS, HAVE ACTED IN COMPLETELY POSITIVE, FORTHCOMING, AND COOPERATIVE MANNER. GOS AND SENEGALESE IN DAKAR ARE USE TO SIGHT AND PRESENCE OF USAF C-141'S AND C-5'S. FOR U.S. TO HAVE TO TELL SENEGALESE NOW THAT WE CANNOT AIRLIFT THEIR MEN AND MATERIAL TO ZAIRE WOULD DEFY THEIR CREDIBILITY.

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